



INTERNATIONAL CASSOWARY SUMMIT 1st - 4th April 2009 Cairns, Queensland, Australia

Can we save this endangered bird, the gardener of the rainforest?



The Australian Rainforest Foundation (ARF) invites you to the inaugural **International Cassowary Summit** to be held in the heart of the World Heritage listed Wet Tropics in tropical north Queensland, Australia, primary home to the world's endangered southern cassowary.

The conference is focused on bringing together scientists, researchers, zoo curators, natural resource management and environment groups to formalise how we must act, and in what timeframe, to ensure that we do save this keystone species of the rainforest.

Why Australia's rainforests need the cassowary

The southern cassowary is the world's third largest bird. It is one of Australia's largest land animals and plays a unique role in the ecology of the World Heritage listed rainforests of tropical Australia. It is one of only a very few Wet Tropics frugivores that can disperse large rainforest seeds over long distances which is a role, that in tropical rainforests in other parts of the world, is performed by whole guilds of species.

Why you should attend this summit

Scientists believe only 1200 – 1500 southern cassowaries survive in the wild in Australia, this is comparable with the number of Giant Pandas in China. We all need to act now to save the cassowary and save our rainforests.

Through workshops, plenary sessions and field trips the summit will address:

- A Recovery Plan for the cassowary
- The current state of research - what we know and what we don't know about this elusive bird including recent DNA research
- Captive breeding – issues, actions and needs
- Habitat analysis and threats
- Potential for wild release

The summit also offers an excellent opportunity for parties from all over the world to share their valuable experiences and knowledge of this critical rainforest species.

International Cassowary Summit:

When: 1st- 4th April, 2009

Where: Cairns, Queensland,
Australia

For more information:

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The summit is an initiative
of the Australian Rainforest
Foundation.



Read more about the Australian Rainforest Foundation at www.arf.net.au